

Entomology Program Review Implementation Plan 2015 Annual Report

(Implementation Plan submitted March, 2011)

Recommendation 1: Develop a plan to address faculty hiring based on the needs of the department and the clientele served by the department.

Assessment method: The actual development of a faculty hiring and staffing plan.

Results: Following faculty discussions, the faculty ranked the following three positions as high priorities for the Department: Integrative Insect Biology, Public Health Entomologist, and Entomological Interactions within Sustainable Agroecosystems.

Analysis of results and reflection: While three essential faculty positions have been identified and ranked, the Department should continue to develop a faculty hiring plan to fill the three identified positions.

Ongoing improvement actions: The Department recently hired two assistant professors in the area of Integrative Insect Biology.

Recommendation 2: Clarify policies for admission into PhD program in Entomology.

Assessment method: The formulation of simplified policies for admission into the PhD program in Entomology will be measured by the number of PhD candidates who apply for admission.

Results: The policies for direct admission into the PhD program in Entomology when a student does not have a MS degree were clarified (March 2011). Since that time applications for our PhD program from students with only BS degrees has remained the same.

Analysis of results and reflection: The clarification of our policy has made our application process clearer for the relatively few students with only BS degrees who apply directly to our PhD program.

Ongoing improvement actions: The department will continue to ensure that all admissions policies or other policies affecting students are clear and concise.

Recommendation 3: The department should review and revise the core curriculum for graduate students.

Assessment method: The review and revision of the core curriculum for graduate students will be assessed by the number of students who achieve a Master's or PhD in Entomology.

Results: No significant revisions have been made to date.

Analysis of results and reflection: The revision of the graduate curriculum in Entomology is an on-going discussion at faculty meetings. Some progress has been made.

Ongoing improvement actions: The department faculty approved offering Integrated Physiology and Integrated Organismal Biology courses on a trial basis. Drs. Dan Potter and Jen White initiated discussions on offering a curriculum development course.

Recommendation 4: Review the safety of all laboratory fume hoods and repair or replace those that are not functioning at safe levels.

Assessment method: The proper functioning of fume hoods will be assessed by a reduction in the reporting of malfunctioning hood units to PPD.

Results: Major lab renovations have been completed on the second and third floors of the Ag Science Center North. One poorly functioning hood has been removed.

Analysis of results and reflection: The quality of and safety within these labs have been greatly improved. The number of reports of malfunctioning fume hoods to PPD has diminished by 100%. There have been no recent reports of malfunctioning fume hoods.

Ongoing improvement actions: The department will continue to monitor lab fume hoods in order to provide safe environments within all labs.

Recommendation 5: Internet connectivity concerns voiced by faculty and graduate students housed in the Animal Pathology Building should be investigated and addressed immediately.

Assessment method: Reduction in the number of complaints about internet service from faculty and graduate students housed in the Animal Pathology Building.

Results: The UK IT office was contacted to resolve these problems. Wireless connectivity has been established in the Animal Pathology Building and complaints have been reduced to zero.

Analysis of results and reflection: The Internet connectivity issues in the Animal Pathology Building have been successfully resolved.

Ongoing improvement actions: The department chair will continue to monitor Internet connectivity in the Animal Pathology Building.

Recommendation 6: College and Departmental administrators should meet with PPD to resolve differences over HVAC maintenance issues (e.g. ductwork cleanliness and ambient temperature control in laboratories) which compromise the ability of Entomology faculty, staff, and students to fulfill research grant and contractual obligations.

Assessment method: The resolution of HVAC maintenance issues in Ag North and the renewed ability of Entomology faculty, staff, and student to fulfill research grant and contractual obligations.

Results: Ductwork was cleaned in 2014, which improved air flow.

Analysis of results and reflection: Adequate heating and cooling remains a problem within the Ag Science Center, which continues to compromise the ability of Entomology faculty, staff, and students to fulfill research grant and contractual obligations.

Ongoing improvement actions: Several labs are being renovated in Ag Science North to address issues involving heating and cooling of the second and third floor labs and offices. The Chair will continue to work with college administration and PPD to reach a successful solution to the heating and cooling issues within Ag North.

Recommendation 7: College and Department administrations should review the policy of locking exterior, office, and laboratory doors to ensure the security of employees and students working after hours (evenings and weekends) and to reduce the incidences of theft at all times, as well as to investigate other means of limiting access to these areas (i.e., control keypad, card readers, etc.).

Assessment method: The reduction in thefts and an increase in safety measures

Results: A keypad lock has been installed for the computer lab on the second floor of the Ag Science Center. The lock on one of the main office doors has been replaced. Reported incidences of theft have decreased.

Analysis of results and reflection: While the reports of thefts have decreased, the safety of employees and students working after hours continues to be of concern. Additional keypad locks will continue to be a priority.

Ongoing improvement actions: Providing a safe and secure environment for members of the Entomology Department continues to be a priority.